

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Accordingly, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues, or believes that some or all of the claims are not in condition for allowance, the applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to schedule a telephone Examiner Interview before any further actions on the merits.

The applicants will now address each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action.

Objections

Claims 2 and 6-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 6, 7, 9 and 11 have each been rewritten in independent form to include the features of rejected base claim 1. Therefore, each of these claims is in condition for allowance. Since claims 8 and 10 depend from allowable claims 7 and 9, respectively, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102



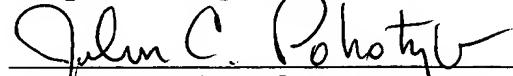
Claims 1, 3-5 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,816,917 ("the Yamamoto patent"). Claims 1, 3-5 and 12 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,788,340 ("the Chen patent"). Since claims 1, 5 and 12 have been canceled, this ground of rejection is rendered moot. Further, since claims 3 and 4 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 2, these claims are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING under 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on June 22, 2006 with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
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